

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 (ISO) W
----- 075442

R 171757Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3118

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3391

MADRID ALSO FOR AMB CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH COL. VARELA GOMES

1. ON JUNE 12, EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH COL. VARELA GOMES, OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF FIFTH DIVISION (INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA). EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD ORIGINALLY SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH THEN-DIRECTOR ROBIN DE ANDRADE, WHO WAS "UNAVAILABLE" DESPITE SEVERAL CALLS.

2. VARELA GOMES RECEIVED EMBASSY OFFICERS CORDIALLY. HE RESPONDED FREELY, BUT NOT ESPECIALLY CANDIDLY, TO QUESTIONS REGARDING ROLE OF FIFTH DIVISION. HE REFUSED TO BE PINNED DOWN REGARDING COMMUNIST-LINING SECTION 9 OF INSTRUCTION HANDBOOK USED IN DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM (LISBON 2389). HE APPEARED COMPLETELY AT EASE AND SEEMED TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROJECT IMAGE OF
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MODERATION AND REASONABLENESS.

3. KEY POINTS WHICH CAME THROUGH DURING CONVERSATION WERE DETERMINATION OF FIFTH DIVISION TO PROCEED WITH EFFORTS TO PROVIDE POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION TO ARMED FORCES AS NECESSARY FIRST STEP TO EXPANDED MILITARY ROLE IN EFFORTS TO RAISE "POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS" OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. MILITARY SOCIOLOGY CENTER, WHICH VARELA GOMES DIRECTS, WILL PLAY KEY ROLE IN THESE EFFORTS.

4. COMMENT: VARELA GOMES HAS BEEN A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE STEADY LEFTWARD MOVE OF FIFTH DIVISION. HE TRAVELLED TO CUBA IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, AND SINCE HIS RETURN FIFTH DIVISION LITERATURE HAS INCLUDED FREQUENT FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO THE CUBAN EXPERIENCE.

5. MEMCON FOLLOWS SEPAIR.
OKUN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, MPOL, PGOV, PO, (GOMES, VARELA)
To: STATE
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